

IF IT'S NEWS  
IT'S HERE

# THE SPOT FOR SPORTS

EDITED BY  
WAGNER

## BRIDGEPORT CLUB MAY USE GEORGE CROOK IN OUTFIELD

### Packey M'Farland Claims Gamblers Tried to Influence Him in Britton Bout

(By Wagner.)  
George Crook, the Massachusetts boy who was signed by the Bridgeport baseball club as a catcher may be used as an outfielder by the Mechanics. Crook played the outfield in several games for Bellows Falls, Vt. in the Twin State league last season. He is a hard hitter and covers a lot of ground. If Eddie McGinley, the Providence boy, makes good as utility catcher, Crook will be tried in the outer works. McGinley is a heavy youngster and is said to be ready for class B company. If he delivers it is thought that the veteran Eddie Bridges will be tried as a first and Harvey Russell retained as first catcher.

It is said that President Lynch of the National League and August Herrmann, chairman of the National Commission are in favor of National Johnson's idea to prevent ball players from signing their names to newspaper stories which they do not write. It is claimed that Jack Wheeler of the New York Herald writes the stories that appear under the name of McGraw and Mathewson in New York papers.

Young McCulliffe of this city will meet Banty Lewis of New York in the star bout of the Acorn A. C. at Eagles' Hall, March 27. Lewis is a clever boxer who has gained the honors over several good men. The semi-final will show Dave Ryan of this city and Kid Lewis of Waterbury. In the prelim-

nary Young Kid Robinson of Derby will clash with Kid Allen of this city.

Lefty High, formerly with Hartford, played the outfield for Detroit against the Cincinnati Reds last Saturday. He made one hit in five times up. Detroit beat the Reds by 5 to 0.

Packey M'Farland has created a sensation in New York boxing circles by stating that certain sporting men identified with Jack Britton's camp, tried to get Packey to bet on the recent bout. The New York State Boxing Commission has stated that if M'Farland will furnish the names of the gamblers they will be barred from all New York boxing clubs. Framing up bouts is a custom which the commission seeks to discourage.

Owner Whalen of the Holyoke club has signed John J. O'Brien, a catcher from Schenectady, N. Y., F. C. Basson, a twirler from Irvington, N. Y., Thomas Doody, a pitcher from Hartford, and Norman Muller, an outfielder from Brooklyn.

The Springfield club is also active. Tom Logan, the second baseman obtained from Lynn, Mass., has signed his contract and Dennis Berran, an outfielder from the Maine-New Brunswick league has also signed. Harry Bond, a catcher from Roxbury, Mass., First Baseman Langdon from Scranton, Pa., who is recommended by John Hummel of Brooklyn Nationals is also a newcomer.

## PITCHER HANLEY OF GIANTS DIES

PROMISING YOUNSTER FAILS TO  
HEAL AFTER OPERATION  
FOR APPENDICITIS.

Dallas, Texas, March 10.—Manager McGraw of the Giants received word from Marlin yesterday of the death of Pitcher Hanley, who was operated on there Saturday for appendicitis. The pitcher died at 1:15 a. m. and Robert Robinson was with him when he died. The young man realized that his end was near, and so told Robinson. He was ill for a little over a week.

Hanley's home was in Marietta, Ohio, and McGraw sent instructions to Marlin to have the remains sent back to Marietta, and, if necessary, have somebody accompany them. The family was sent to Hanley's family of his condition, and it may be that some member of the family is on the way to Marlin. The young pitcher was a quiet, earnest lad and was well liked by those Giants who had met him. Some of the regulars who reported late never had seen him, but all of the players are upset over the occurrence.

There was a heavy rain here and no game was played yesterday. There was to have been a game in Corsicana today, but that, too, has been cancelled.

## JENNINGS HELD OUT IN BALTIMORE DAYS

With Kelly, Keeler and McGraw He  
Refused to Stand For Out.

Gulfport, March 10.—Hugh Jennings was once a hold-out. The Detroit Tigers' leader is proud of the rebel position taken by him and three others when playing ball with the old Baltimore Orioles. Here is the way Hugh tells the story:

"The Baltimore team had won the pennant in 1894 and had repeated in 1895. The pennants were won principally because of the work of McGraw, Keeler, Kelly and myself, and when the spring of 1896 rolled around the management of the Baltimore refused to grant us more money than we had been getting.

"It was explained that there was a rule in the league which prevented a club owner from giving a player more than \$2,500 yearly. We kicked and we were going to get it if the getting was possible. In those days \$2,500 a season to a player was an immense sum and it took the management of the Baltimore club a long time to make up with us. It finally did on our price.

"It is hard to imagine that a club would stand back instead of giving a raise of \$200 to a player, but that is what the Baltimore club intended doing. But we never had any intention of quitting the game, such as ballplayers of today have.

"Baseball has made great strides in the past 10 or 20 years. In the old days a player could save considerable from his salary, but today to a player who is being paid a mere \$2,500 a year finds considerable difficulty in making ends meet. I used to live money, and a lot of it, too, in proportion to my salary. I pointed this fact out to a Detroit player last year and the latter couldn't see the point. This player, who was getting \$3,500 a season, declared he couldn't save anything on it, and he wanted a raise.

"A player's expenses today aren't any more than they were when I was in the game. Some of them think they are, however."

## FOUR GAMES AT BOYS' CLUB TONIGHT

There will be four games of basketball at the Boys' club gymnasium tonight. The first contest will start at 7:30 in order that the sport may be finished early. The four contestants are:

Milford Defenders and Boys' club five; Milford High and Union Business College; All-Trades and Crescents; Melrose girls and Boys' club girls.

## BILLY BULL WILL COACH YALE TEAM

FAMOUS PUNTER TO TEACH ELI  
CANDIDATES HOW TO KICK.

Announcement has been made that Dr. William T. Bull will be at New Haven practically all the kick teaching the Yale footballists how to kick. Bull was considered the greatest drop-kicker Yale ever had, and Pumpelly's work in the Princeton game was a monument to his instruction. He will come to New Haven nearly every day in the fall after the men have mastered the rudiments of the game.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the two big minor Yale football next fall besides the captain and the regular force of coaches will be Dr. Bull and Tax Commissioner William H. Corbin, known to all Yale men affectionately as Pa. Corbin. During the discussion as to who the next head coach should be, Mr. Corbin, after it was seen that there was no possibility of getting Harry Williams to come from Connecticut, brought all influences to bear for the selection of Howard Jones.

The middle of the spring Captain Ketchum will announce his fresh ideas about the Yale football coach will be salaried. The name is withheld for the present for business reasons. It is expected to make the position of freshman coach a permanent one.

## Sporting Notes Of Interest

The Virginia State Baseball league will celebrate its nineteenth birthday today, having been launched on its career March 9, 1894, at a meeting of the managers in Richmond. The league was originally composed of six clubs, and for the most part has continued with that number, although last year an experiment was made with eight clubs. Like most amateur organizations, the Virginia League has had its ups and downs, but on the whole it has been profitable and a credit to the sport.

Just a quarter of a century ago today, March 10, 1888, the eyes of the sporting world were fixed on the little city of Chantilly, France, for it was on that date that Charley Mitchell, the English boxer, fought his immortal battle with the Old Roman of the prize ring—we refer, ladies and gentlemen, to the young truly John L. Sullivan. Chantilly may have other claims to fame, but in the minds of fight fans it is forever associated with Mitchell and John L. Sullivan. The Mitchell first met in the prize ring thirty years ago, and John L. won in three rounds. During the next five years the Englishman vastly improved in speed and ring generalship, and he had many admirers on both sides of the pond who believed that he could hold his own with the big champion. Their faith was partially justified, for after thirty-nine rounds of fighting, lasting three hours and eleven minutes, the bout ended in a draw. Considering the great difference in weight Mitchell made for the better showing. It was his fast footwork that puzzled John L. and made the veteran appear at times like a novice.

If Charley Mitchell had had a little more meat on his bones he might have become world's champion. In many ways Bombardier Wells, the present English champion reminds one of Mitchell, although it is doubtful if Wells will ever equal Mitchell's record. Like Bombardier, Mitchell had a fairly good education and was gentlemanly in appearance and conversation. His father had charge of a medical college in Birmingham, Eng., and in his youth Mitchell was his assistant. Naturally he picked up a lot of information about medical topics, and he could talk like a regular sawbones. This led to the report that he was a medical student, which was untrue. For many years Charley had a wealthy uncle in Squire Abingdon, Baird, a wealthy Englishman of old family who was a famous patron of pugilism, racing and other sports, and who always backed Mitchell with big sums. Mitchell took his pitcher in the well once too often when he challenged Jim Corbett, who was much bigger than Mitchell and fully as clever. The Britisher was knocked out in the third round of the bout, which was pulled off at Jacksonville, Fla.

**BAGGAGE SMASHER  
MADE THREAT TO  
SHOOT TYRUS COBB**

Athens, Ga., March 10.—The recent visit of Ty Cobb to Manager Stallings' plantation nearly ended disastrously for the Georgian. The natives here are still discussing the incident. It appears that Cobb on his return to his home, in Royston, Ga., came to Athens for his train. He had a small trunk with him and also a hunting dog. When he arrived at the station, the agent, who is a small man, was busy checking up trunks that were to be sent out of town. Cobb strutted into the agent's room and demanded that he be shown immediate attention.

Like most southern men, the agent, looked over Cobb and said nothing. Ty then became "peevish." The agent informed him that he would have to wait his turn and that, furthermore, two bits would be charged to check the dog through to Royston. Cobb became angry, and the agent was still more angry.

"I know you, Cobb," declared the agent. "You be a native of this here state and you know what will happen if you get me riled. I have my little pet with me and unless you get out of this baggage room in one minute they'll take you to Royston in a box."

Ty went out and waited for his turn. He also paid the two bits for checking the dog.

## THIS DATE IN PUGILISTIC ANNALS

MARCH 9.  
1863—John Gully, originally a butcher then a famous pugilist and afterward a member of parliament, died in England.

1903—Gus Ruhlin knocked out Pete Everett in 2nd round at Philadelphia.

1899—Ad Wolgast defeated Harry Baker in 10 rounds at Los Angeles.

1910—Jim Barry knocked out Gunboat Smith at Oakland, Cal.

1911—Al Falser defeated Frank Morris in 10 rounds at New York.

1912—Jack (Twin) Sullivan defeated Tom McMahon in 6 rounds at Pittsburgh.

1912—Tommy Murphy defeated Abe Attell in 20 rounds at Daly City, Cal.

MARCH 10.

1865—Martin Costello, once famous middleweight, born in Buffalo.

1899—Charley Mitchell and John L. Sullivan fought 30-round draw at Chantilly, France.

1905—Jimmy Austin knocked out Max Weber in 1st round at Venice, Cal.

1911—Dummy Decker defeated Bert Keyes in 15 rounds at Baltimore.

1917—Bob Moha outpointed Mike Sullivan in 8 rounds at Milwaukee.

## WHY NOT HAVE THE COMMISSION PUT CURB ON "COVER UP" HABIT?

BY T. S. ANDREWS.

The "cover up" habit, which is getting to be second nature with most boxers, is becoming a very disgusting one to the spectators at boxing shows and meets with almost as much disapproval as the "split" ball pitcher in baseball. When you get two boxers who have the "cover up" habit, then look for a rank contest, for neither one seems willing to start the fireworks, with the result that the fight stalls through the six or eight rounds and disgusts everyone present. It is all too often the case for a boxer to resort to the "cover" when he is in hard straits and needs a chance to recover himself, but for a boxer to deliberately start out in a limited round bout to "cover" before hitting a blow, it is going too far; in fact it is not boxing, but stalling.

The crouch was brought into use by James J. Jeffries and was worked out by Tommy Ryan, who was teaching Jeffries the art then, but Jeff never let it interfere with his work; it only enabled him to better evade the straight punches of an expert like Jim Corbett and a slugger like Bob Fitzsimmons. Then came the "cover up" among some of the New York and Philadelphia boxers, although Ed Hamilton, the San Francisco light weight, had used it effectively before.

The New York boxing commission has full power to act in creating new rules, etc., for boxing, why not pass a rule that will at least curb the practice of "covering up" in contests of limited rounds? The commission might at least put a time limit on the "cover up." Perhaps it would then be necessary to have an extra timer to keep tab on the "coverers." There should be some way of putting a stop to the continual "cover up" during a bout, for it does the game no good.

## AUSTRALIAN BOXER TO VISIT THIS COUNTRY

Mehegan, Who Recently Fought Matt  
Wells, Wants American Gold.

London, March 10.—While Freddie Welsh undoubtedly holds undisputed claim to the lightweight championship here, it is still a debatable point as to which of the lightweights ranks next to him. It was thought the vexed question might be settled at the National Sporting Club on last Monday night, but it was not so, although Wells got the verdict over Mehegan at the end of twenty rounds. The authorities here may look upon Wells as the next best to Welsh, but the "fans" have a soft place for the Australian, who now talks of trekking for America.

It was a rousing battle from beginning to end—a real fight and no boxing match. Probably that is why Mr. Douglas, the referee, was so constantly harassing the men and, according to them, "stand away" and all sorts of things. They do not love hard, close fighting at the National, and Mehegan's style emphasized by the fact that Wells, after playing the Australian at his own game, did not meet with the approval of the official in charge, and it may be taken for granted that the greater compliance with the order to "stand up and box" on the part of Wells weighed heavily with the referee.

Mehegan did not win by a big margin, but he won nevertheless, and though the records say that he was defeated, this bout, at any rate, can be wiped out of future calculations. Mehegan fought his own fight; not as he did against Welsh, but more after his natural crouching style. He is at a disadvantage when he is not bent nearly double, and throughout Monday's contest he simply walked into Wells on every occasion giving the top of his head as an invulnerable mark and then lashing out with such deadly hooks and uppercuts that he had his opponent's face in a heavy state soon after the contest started.

## MURPHY SAYS HIS HARDEST BATTLE WAS AGAINST ABE ATTELL

Harlem, Tommy Murphy, who fought twenty furious rounds to a draw with Ad Wolgast last month, declares that the experience with the Michigan Wildcat was only light exercise compared with what he went through when he defeated Abe Attell in San Francisco a year ago today.

Tommy doesn't deny that the former lightweight champion gave him a run for his money, and he will even admit that Ad made a noise like a regular fighter, but he asserts that Wolgast isn't in the same class as little Abraham Attell, former featherweight champion. Murphy speaks with authority, as he has fought Attell five times and has mingled with Wolgast on two occasions.

Three times Able had the best of Murphy, in the fourth bout Tommy was the victor, and their last session was a draw. Yet, of all these bouts, Tommy says the one in which he was punished the most was when he was given the decision over Abe at Blot's Arena in San Francisco, a year ago today. "Not for a million dollars," asserted the Pride of Harlem, "would I go through that fight again. It was by far the toughest scrap of my career, and after it was over I almost decided to quit the game."

Attell was in the pink of condition for that fight with Murphy. He upset all the dope when he rushed through the start of the going. When there is any rough mixing to be done in a bout in which Tommy participates, he is supposed to do it, but in this case Abe beat him up. For fifteen rounds Attell traveled at top speed, and had Murphy seeing stars most of the time. Along about the sixteenth Attell reached his limit and Tommy, seeing that Abraham had shot his bolt, waded in and managed to get the decision on his superiority in the last few rounds.

**LYFORD BROS. T  
SEE EASTER WOOLENS TRY  
E TWO STORES**

18 at Brooklawn rink. The game promises to be a most exciting contest.

The teams will be represented in the city series as follows: Blue Ribbons, Leavy, Hurley, Keating, Burdick, Morrison, Cahill, Bierbaum, Loeh, Brooklawn, Shea, Ludwig, Treat, Aurilio, Brown, Hoffman, Frankel, Graham.

At Brooklawn rink tomorrow night the strong Glenbrook basketball team of Glenbrook, Conn. will play the Brooklawn. The line up:

Brooklawn: Aurilio, Shea, La Roache, Right Forward, Hurley, Morrison, Left Forward, Brown, Hoffman, Center, Treat, Graham, G. Tigler, Right Guard, Ludwig, Left Guard.

## AUDUBON SOCIETIES' NATIONAL SECRETARY SPEAKS HERE TONIGHT

T. Gilbert Pearson, secretary of the National association of Audubon societies, will be the chief speaker at the regular meeting this evening of the Fairfield County Fish and Game Protective association. The meeting will be called to order by President T. M. Adams in the Board of Trade rooms at 8:15.

## WANT ADS. CENT A WORD.

L. A. A. O. H. ANNIVERSARY.

Division 16, Ladies Auxiliary, A. O. H. celebrates its sixteenth anniversary yesterday afternoon at Odd Fellows' Hall, about 150 members being present. A literary and musical program was given, after which a turkey supper was served. Miss Rose Sullivan was chairman of the committee of arrangements and presided at the exercises.

## POSTPONE BROOKLAWN BLUE RIBBON BATTLE

First Contest in Basketball Series Will  
Not Take Place Until March 18.

The first game in the basketball series between the Blue Ribbons and the Brooklawn will be played at Brooklawn rink on March 18, not tomorrow night as first arranged. Manager Leavy wanted to play the first game on Thursday night after he found out that he had to go out of the city on Tuesday night as the Brooklawn will run their annual ball on Friday March 14, the club couldn't see it that way so the two managers have decided to have the first on Tuesday night Mar.

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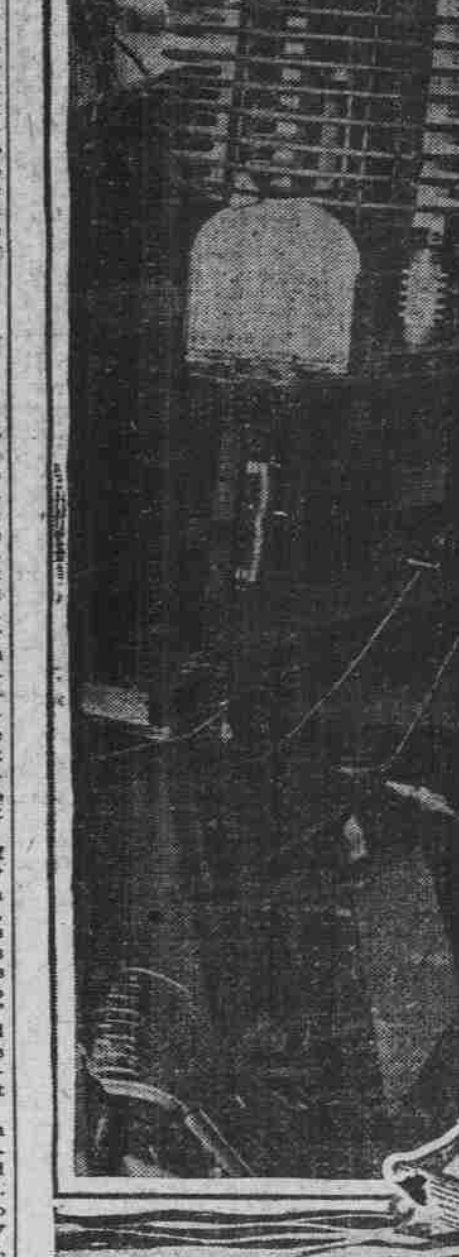
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## BALTIMORE MAY HOLD PUBLIC FUNERAL FOR VICTIMS OF DYNAMITE EXPLOSION; DAMAGED WIRELESS ROOM OF U. S. COLLIER JASON



WIRELESS ROOM OF U. S. COLLIER JASON WRECKED BY EXPLOSION

Baltimore, March 10.—This city may hold a public funeral for the victims of the terrible dynamite explosion on board the British steamer Alum Chine, in which over fifty were killed outright, and many may later die of their wounds. Most of the victims lived here, including the hero of the horror, Captain William E. Van Dyke of the tug Atlantic, who tried his best, but in vain, to save

some of the Alum Chine's crew. Pitiful scenes were witnessed when relatives of those still missing and counted as dead watched at various piers as the vessels which searched for bodies returned. Hysterical women in tears, weeping children and grim faced men, brothers or sons or fathers of the victims, waited for news. Many bodies will never be recovered, because they were practically blown to bits. The river and bay were strewn with legs, arms and parts of torsos.

A federal inquiry will start soon to determine what caused the accident and who is responsible. The dynamite was being loaded aboard the British steamer from a barge and was meant for Panama canal work. People here are wondering if the fact that the Alum Chine was a British ship and was near the port had anything to do with it, especially in view of diplomatic relations now existing between this country and Great Britain over the Panama canal tolls.

## IN MAJOR LEAGUES

Joe Tinker has denied the report that Frank Davis, third baseman of Georgetown University, has signed a contract with the Reds. Davis will not be graduated until June, and wants to play with his team until the season closes. He cannot enter into a professional contract without impairing his amateur standing, but has promised Tinker that he will sign in June. The manager of the Reds also has announced that Stetler, a professional pitcher of Marietta, Ohio, has signed.

Schuyler Britton, the new president of the St. Louis Cardinals, is a busy man these days. His latest move was to take out life insurance policies on twenty members of his club for a total of \$10,000, or \$500 each. The premium for each player was \$15, and the policies run during the seven months of active playing.

George Stovall, manager of the St. Louis Browns, has announced a rule that his players appear at the hotel where the club is staying, in Waco, will be clean, with collars and shirts at all times. Stovall declares that the way some of the youngsters just breaking into the "big leagues" dress is not fitting.

Harry Devore, the Louisville infielder who played with the Erie club of the Central League, this year.

Daniel J. McDevitt, the young twirler from Eastern College, has been released by the Brooklyn Superbas to the Oskosh club, of the Wisconsin-Illinois League.

Bennet Ferriman, the tall pocket-pitcher purchased by the Giants last fall from the Richmond club, of the Virginia League, has written to McGraw, asking for permission to be allowed to study at college until he is graduated, in June. Should McGraw refuse to grant this request, Ferriman declares that he will not report, as he considers his diploma more important than baseball.

Ray Collins, the lanky southpaw has signed with the Boston Red Sox. Collins has been suffering from a bad attack of "holdoutitis" all winter, but came to terms on Friday.

The Reading and Chester clubs of the Tri-State League have withdrawn, leaving only six clubs in that organization.

The story comes from Atlanta that Ty Cobb is organizing a team to play independent baseball this year. Maybe; also maybe not.